

or indirectly through county or other collective reports. The general coverage of the country has much improved, though it is still uneven. We should particularly welcome more information from regular light traps recording in West Cornwall, which is probably the most important point of arrivals for many immigrants, from inland localities generally, and from Scotland and Ireland. We also thank Mr. P. A. Davey for his help on meteorological probabilities for arrivals of immigrants during September and October.

(To be continued)

COPPER UNDERWINGS *AMPHIPYRA PYRAMIDEA* L. AND *A. BERBERA SVENSSONI* FLETCHER IN BEDFORDSHIRE. — From the literature I see it is 16 years since it was recognised that two separate species of Copper Underwing exist in this country. This year I attempted for the first time to separate them using the characteristic differences in the undersides described by Goater and Christie (in *Ent. Gaz.* Vol. 20). I feel my observations may be of interest at least to those, who like me, have never tried to determine which of the two species they have seen.

Copper Underwings can be very numerous at sugar and the first site I sugared produced around 100 to 150 a night in late August. My first samples of the smartest, freshest looking moths, when examined at home, showed no differences, and all matched the characteristics of *Amphipyra pyramidea* L. Only when I started taking the dull, dowdy looking moths, was *A. berbera svenssoni* Fletcher revealed to me. After that it all seemed easy! Having got a "feel" for the two species it seemed that torchlight enhanced the differences and I was able, with a high degree of success to tell the two apart from the upperside appearances alone — on the spot, at the sugar patch.

*A. pyramidea* appears a much more handsome and contrasty moth than *A. berbera*, presenting a very "black and white" appearance in the beam of a torch, whilst *A. berbera* appears drab and exhibits little contrast.

At the first site the ratio of *pyramidea* to *berbera* was in the order of 7:3 but at a second Bedfordshire location the situation was reversed with *berbera* being the more numerous, again at about 7:3. Both species are obviously very common in Bedfordshire. — K. F. WEBB, 2 Kingsdown Avenue, Luton, Beds LU2 7BU.

SESIA BEMBEICIFORMIS HBN.: LUNAR HORNET MOTH IN BEDFORDSHIRE. — On 26 December 1983 whilst cleaning out a cage, I discovered a specimen of this moth, which I had missed at the time of emergence. The insect was reared from a section of a 60mm. diameter sawn trunk and was taken from a small colony I had found in South Bedfordshire. This is apparently the first recorded *S. bembeciformis* for Bedfordshire since Victorian times. — K. F. WEBB, 2 Kingsdown Avenue, Luton, Beds.